

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 10812 160558Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 ISO-00 EB-11 L-03 SP-03 INR-11 DRC-01

RSC-01 /065 W

----- 088296

R 160445Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7851

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10812

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 176399

1. FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE THE PROPOSAL FOR US-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS CERTAINLY HAS A GREAT DEAL OF MERIT AND WE THINK IT SHOULD BE PURSUED AS A USEFUL DEVICE FOR DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME THE PROPOSAL AS OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES TO MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVE THE RVN IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS GENERALLY AND IN ASEAN SPECIFICALLY.

2. FROM THE TACTICAL VIEWPOINT WE STRONGLY ENDORSE AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WE NOT GO VIA THE ROUTE OF PRIOR EXPLORATION WITH MALIK BUT MOVE DIRECTLY WITH THE FIVE ASEAN MEMBERS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY, OR IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 10812 160558Z

INFORMING THE NON-MEMBERS OF OUR INITIATIVE.

3. UNLESS IT TURNS OUT TO BE THE DESIRE OF THE ASEAN MEMBERS THAT THE INITIAL MEETING BE HELD IN WASHINGTON THE VENUE SHOULD BE AN ASIAN CAPITAL. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT WE MUCH PREFER A CAPITAL WHERE THERE IS NO HANGUP ON HAVING THE RVN ATTEND AS AN OBSERVER OR LINKING RVN ATTENDANCE WITH A REQUIREMENT THAT THE "PRG" ALSO BE ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS. THIS WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT JAKARTA. WE DO NOT FORESEE THAT THE GVN WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH DRV PARTICIPATION ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE RVN. LEHMANN

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NNN

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